

# United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6200

April 21, 2010

## **Via Electronic Transmission**

Jerry Fuller  
Medical Director  
Alaska Medicaid and Health and Social Services  
State of Alaska  
4501 Business Park Boulevard  
Anchorage, AK 99503

Dear Medical Director Fuller:

In the United States, the federal and state governments spend roughly \$317 billion every year on the Medicaid program. As Ranking Member of the Senate Committee on Finance, I have an obligation to ensure that taxpayer dollars are appropriately spent on federal health care programs. Like the Medicare program, Medicaid suffers from systemic weaknesses that lead to fraud, waste, and abuse across the program, resulting in higher costs and less health care to those who are in need. The overutilization of prescription drugs, whether through drug abuse or outright fraud, plays a significant role in the rising cost of our healthcare system. The purpose of this letter is to request information regarding certain outliers in Alaska's Medicaid program and what steps Alaska takes to monitor rates of utilization.

In recent inquiries, I have asked the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services about physicians prescribing mental health drugs at astonishingly high rates. In addition to these concerns, a recent CNN report detailed the increasing abuse of OxyContin, Roxicodone, and Xanax. Specifically, the report described the role some pain management clinics and physicians play in the black market for these drugs. I write today to better ascertain how high rates of both mental health and pain medication utilization are affecting the Medicaid program, as well as how Alaska's rates compare to the national rates.

To that end, please provide charts that list of the top ten Medicaid prescribers of the following drugs for the years 2008 and 2009. For each prescriber, please provide his/her prescriber identifier, and the number of prescriptions written per drug per year, and the total amount billed to Medicaid per drug, separated for each year.

- Abilify;
- Geodon;
- Seroquel;
- Zyprexa;
- Risperdal;

- OxyContin;
- Roxicodone; and
- Xanax.

I thank you in advance for your cooperation and request that you provide the requested documents and written responses by no later than May 5, 2010. In your reply, please format information into a chart like the examples provided below. All formal correspondence should be sent electronically in PDF format to [Brian\\_Downey@finance-rep.senate.gov](mailto:Brian_Downey@finance-rep.senate.gov) or via facsimile to (202) 228-2131. Of course should you wish to discuss this matter further, please do not hesitate to contact Christopher Armstrong of my Committee staff at (202) 224-4515.

Sincerely,



Charles E. Grassley  
Ranking Member

Attachment

**Drug X, 2008**

Prescriber Identifier	Total prescriptions	Total billed to Medicaid
123456789	25,000	250,000
234567891	24,000	240,000
345678912	23,000	230,000
456789123	22,000	220,000
567891234	21,000	210,000
678912345	20,000	200,000
789123456	19,000	190,000
891234567	18,000	180,000
912345678	17,000	170,000
012345678	16,000	160,000

**Drug X, 2009**

Prescriber Identifier	Total prescriptions	Total billed to Medicaid
123456789	25,000	250,000
234567891	24,000	240,000
345678912	23,000	230,000
456789123	22,000	220,000
567891234	21,000	210,000
678912345	20,000	200,000
789123456	19,000	190,000
891234567	18,000	180,000
912345678	17,000	170,000
012345678	16,000	160,000

## Abilify 2008

<b>Prescriber Identifier (NPI)</b>	<b>Number of Prescriptions</b>	<b>Sum of Payments</b>
1134148828 (and Medicaid ID MD19052)	876	\$ 214,236.96
1003810375	519	\$ 94,108.25
1760495246	508	\$ 94,492.79
1093736365	468	\$ 86,531.02
1568630762	339	\$ 70,399.96
1063525145	322	\$ 79,365.51
1447341375	268	\$ 43,464.21
1033263439	237	\$ 60,047.45
1477569705	224	\$ 45,383.64
1275628380	215	\$ 58,270.54

## Abilify 2009

<b>Prescriber Identifier (NPI)</b>	<b>Number of Prescriptions</b>	<b>Sum of Payments</b>
1134148828	1,232	\$ 319,192.72
1760495246	672	\$ 117,014.83
1093736365	610	\$ 122,488.14
1225099765	473	\$ 121,946.36
1447341375	375	\$ 84,396.83
1134397334	337	\$ 154,863.28
1275628380	337	\$ 93,953.72
1033263439	314	\$ 90,766.61
1285769919	304	\$ 97,508.13
1881612752	289	\$ 87,772.78

## Geodon 2008

Prescriber Identifier (NPI)	Number of Prescriptions	Sum of Payments
1003810375	404	\$ 57,757.89
1477569705 (and Medicaid ID MD4622)	374	\$ 61,519.21
1093736365	351	\$ 44,430.61
1447341375	288	\$ 34,455.93
1760495246	142	\$ 13,022.15
1467478164	107	\$ 10,914.92
1013927698	95	\$ 30,735.47
1790710606	84	\$ 25,995.39
1033263439	80	\$ 8,486.60
1033266343	74	\$ 6,092.19

## Geodon 2009

Prescriber Identifier (NPI)	Number of Prescriptions	Sum of Payments
1093736365	601	\$ 82,487.75
1447341375	402	\$ 54,969.71
1760495246	158	\$ 14,883.23
1134148828	145	\$ 22,858.10
1871697342	124	\$ 13,883.23
1013927698	114	\$ 44,295.01
1275628380	106	\$ 11,284.72
1326255217	100	\$ 20,904.82
1225099765	99	\$ 18,805.29
1477569705	94	\$ 19,820.83

## Seroquel 2008

<b>Prescriber Identifier (NPI)</b>	<b>Number of Prescriptions</b>	<b>Sum of Payments</b>
1760495246	785	\$ 51,060.74
1003810375	750	\$ 97,044.59
1447341375	677	\$ 76,455.12
1093736365	606	\$ 73,439.48
1063525145	379	\$ 102,811.55
1134148828	373	\$ 40,570.98
1568630762	355	\$ 63,020.38
1851346779	350	\$ 34,773.25
1033263439	344	\$ 45,519.07
1285769919	277	\$ 62,558.60

## Seroquel 2009

<b>Prescriber Identifier (NPI)</b>	<b>Number of Prescriptions</b>	<b>Sum of Payments</b>
1093736365	1,095	\$ 134,057.00
1447341375	987	\$ 138,732.59
1134148828	681	\$ 69,238.18
1033263439	555	\$ 72,336.38
1518912849	406	\$ 73,300.73
1285769919	387	\$ 91,302.28
1962415349	352	\$ 81,330.06
1568650950	337	\$ 125,768.85
1760495246	316	\$ 15,868.51
1427119155	308	\$ 67,149.96

## Zyprexa 2008

<b>Prescriber Identifier (NPI)</b>	<b>Number of Prescriptions</b>	<b>Sum of Payments</b>
1003810375	980	\$ 205,519.13
1477569705 (and Medicaid ID MD4622)	816	\$ 215,349.73
1093736365	671	\$ 188,828.38
1447341375	654	\$ 109,037.49
1063525145	508	\$ 104,353.60
1851346779	462	\$ 76,794.84
1467478164	323	\$ 59,212.49
1790710606	299	\$ 111,902.45
1992779979	134	\$ 29,735.45
1568630762	125	\$ 36,546.58

## Zyprexa 2009

<b>Prescriber Identifier (NPI)</b>	<b>Number of Prescriptions</b>	<b>Sum of Payments</b>
1093736365	1,162	\$ 330,799.41
1447341375	833	\$ 174,980.92
1518912849	521	\$ 99,092.81
1467478164	456	\$ 98,225.17
1477569705	330	\$ 65,894.67
1194908970	272	\$ 76,758.16
1063525145	260	\$ 103,780.86
1992712442	212	\$ 57,244.62
1326255217	210	\$ 65,426.33
1720299530	206	\$ 110,506.36

## Risperdal 2008 - Brand and Generic

<b>Prescriber Identifier (NPI)</b>	<b>Number of Prescriptions</b>	<b>Sum of Payments</b>
1134148828 (and Medicaid ID MD19052)	1,629	\$ 187,971.40
1033263439	494	\$ 46,010.96
1003810375	360	\$ 47,536.01
1093736365	350	\$ 38,409.00
1033266343	314	\$ 32,206.83
1679581508	262	\$ 72,164.53
1467478164	262	\$ 29,804.08
1447341375	251	\$ 38,042.62
1306067996	233	\$ 19,000.14
1881612752	217	\$ 41,271.14

## Risperdal 2009 - Brand and Generic

<b>Prescriber Identifier (NPI)</b>	<b>Number of Prescriptions</b>	<b>Sum of Payments</b>
1134148828	1,359	\$ 96,643.98
1467478164	591	\$ 31,071.94
1033263439	548	\$ 34,705.31
1093736365	505	\$ 27,729.67
1518912849	430	\$ 16,408.28
1649257460	386	\$ 32,371.98
1306067996	328	\$ 15,674.45
1447341375	328	\$ 29,293.36
1982625596	304	\$ 25,137.48
1184725210	266	\$ 12,971.95



## Oxycontin 2008 - Brand and Generic

<b>Prescriber Identifier (NPI)</b>	<b>Number of Prescriptions</b>	<b>Sum of Payments</b>
1497825798	195	\$ 234,362.96
1427198852	137	\$ 48,083.23
1063492304	66	\$ 38,048.93
1043213507	54	\$ 10,932.13
1427156868	43	\$ 16,172.43
1710946702	36	\$ 12,500.44
1598757312	35	\$ 14,218.50
1457345498	31	\$ 7,867.00
1982659355	30	\$ 3,612.62
1073593315	30	\$ 22,187.28

## Oxycontin 2009 - Brand and Generic

<b>Prescriber Identifier (NPI)</b>	<b>Number of Prescriptions</b>	<b>Sum of Payments</b>
1497825798	222	\$ 296,870.22
1427198852	81	\$ 25,179.13
1184689465	80	\$ 35,852.54
1972562858	70	\$ 27,175.38
1063492304	64	\$ 46,146.27
1427156868	62	\$ 28,047.45
1841245388	49	\$ 17,820.42
1780699330	47	\$ 25,965.41
1457345498	45	\$ 10,852.42
1750456901	42	\$ 13,875.44

## Roxicodone 2008 - Brand and Generic

<b>Prescriber Identifier (NPI)</b>	<b>Number of Prescriptions</b>	<b>Sum of Payments</b>
1386602019 (and Medicaid ID NP9295)	178	\$ 10,298.76
1427198852	154	\$ 7,136.20
1497825798	103	\$ 14,288.27
1063492304	99	\$ 8,492.16
1427156868	76	\$ 7,722.56
1598757312	47	\$ 1,842.42
1710946702	42	\$ 6,143.16
1275609364	42	\$ 1,964.08
1457345498	40	\$ 4,114.89
1811009962	37	\$ 1,368.78

## Roxicodone 2009 - Brand and Generic

<b>Prescriber Identifier (NPI)</b>	<b>Number of Prescriptions</b>	<b>Sum of Payments</b>
1386602019	161	\$ 9,236.02
1497825798	139	\$ 17,468.05
1427156868	97	\$ 10,060.80
1427198852	86	\$ 2,848.85
1972562858	85	\$ 2,961.39
1598757312	78	\$ 4,263.48
1063492304	65	\$ 4,837.47
1275609364	49	\$ 2,352.75
1487778304	47	\$ 1,963.37
1346254307	46	\$ 2,068.36

## Xanax 2008 - Brand and Generic

<b>Prescriber Identifier (NPI)</b>	<b>Number of Prescriptions</b>	<b>Sum of Payments</b>
1598757312	243	\$ 10,263.37
1427085760	231	\$ 11,217.29
1497825798	177	\$ 5,081.12
1285769919	153	\$ 6,749.50
1013927698	143	\$ 3,684.87
1134290398	139	\$ 2,226.01
1063525145	128	\$ 6,602.69
1891888384	114	\$ 1,343.62
1467478164	113	\$ 4,151.97
1568630762	112	\$ 4,669.09

## Xanax 2009 - Brand and Generic

<b>Prescriber Identifier (NPI)</b>	<b>Number of Prescriptions</b>	<b>Sum of Payments</b>
1427085760	272	\$ 29,829.81
1598757312	238	\$ 10,326.10
1962415349	219	\$ 6,226.23
1013927698	216	\$ 5,769.58
1467478164	203	\$ 7,525.32
1164630042	196	\$ 3,420.52
1285799841	186	\$ 3,053.68
1285769919	183	\$ 6,634.63
1063525145	174	\$ 9,674.64
1497825798	160	\$ 5,623.50